

[REDACTED]
20 November 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of Mission 3241
Flown on 16 November 1963

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1. This mission was flown over the border area of northern Laos, adjacent Burma and southern China. It followed the same general track [REDACTED] except that the coverage of southern Yunnan province was more extensive. Several items of interest were disclosed.

2. There is an improved all weather road from Boun Neua in Laos to the China border and thence to Man San. From Man San south to Meng La there is an improved 2 lane natural surface road. These do not appear to be new roads but they have not been previously reported. There is no evidence of road construction between Meng La and Ban Houei Sai in Laos.

3. An extensive military complex at Shuang Chiang was disclosed in this mission. It consists of 2 separate areas with a total of 225 barracks, administration and support type buildings. A large training area is in the hills to the east. This is probably the staging point used by Chicom troops in the joint Sino/Burmese operations against KMT irregulars in 1960 and 1961. It is probably the garrison for an element of the 40th Division of the 14th Chinese Communist Army.

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4. Better photography of the bridge across the Mekong near Na Pan disclosed that 9 piers and 2 abutments are in place but there is no evidence of any significant construction since [REDACTED] when it was first photographed.

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt